

Spring 2012

Milner Matters Spring 2012

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ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

Spring 2012

Milner Matters

Milner's oldest book: Lost and found

By Dane Ward

On March 8, 1476, or thereabouts, the Venetian publisher, Jacopo de Rossi, went to press with Poggio Bracciolini's *Historia fiorentina*. This first edition, written in Italian, describes the history of Florence between the years 1350 and 1455. Five hundred and thirty six years old, *Historia fiorentina* holds the distinction of being Milner Library's oldest book.

Surprisingly, Milner's copy of Bracciolini's history was only recently "rediscovered," though it had never really been missing. To the best of our knowledge, Illinois State University acquired this Renaissance masterpiece in the late 1960s from a dealer of rare books. It was catalogued as Milner's 361,635th item. The library now has approximately 1.6 million books. However, perhaps through clerical error, the *Historia* soon went missing.

To provide some historical context, the *Historia* was published approximately 36 years after Gutenberg invented the printing press and 16 years before Columbus discovered America. According to reigning geographical notions of

the time, the world was flat. Milner's copy is one of about 20 that exist worldwide. Others may be found at such institutions as the universities of Oxford, Yale, Harvard, and Johns Hopkins.

Italian humanist and calligrapher, Bracciolini (1380–1459) was one of those scholars to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for discovering many early Greek and Roman manuscripts from the monastic libraries of Europe. He was a prolific correspondent and author of numerous "moral dialogues," which

were common during this period. The exciting story of Bracciolini's discovery of an epic work by Lucretius is retold in Stephen Goldblatt's *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, winner of the 2011 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Oversized by contemporary standards, the *Historia* is covered in vellum, a hardened and stretched animal skin. At one time, a latch had been attached to the cover but is now long gone. The book consists of approximately 200 pages of continuous, beautifully printed text, divided only by chapter headings. Apparently,

the use of paragraphs to separate ideas had not yet been invented.

Differences exist among the various copies of the *Historia*. Some show the influence of the earlier practice of illumination. Most noticeably, in illuminated copies, the chapter pages begin with a large, painted capital letter. Milner's copy includes place holder boxes at the beginning of these pages with "guide" letters where the illumination could have been applied.

Returning to our recent rediscovery—we have now determined that the original card catalog record for Bracciolini's history incorrectly described its location. Instead of being in the regular book stacks as the record indicated, the *Historia* has always been housed in the Department of Special Collections (as it should be). However, no one realized that it was there.

In 1998, library staff became aware that the book was missing from the regular stacks and for a number of years, periodically searched for it. In 2007, after numerous efforts, the book was formally withdrawn and its record "suppressed" in our online catalog. We suspect that the staff thought they were searching for a facsimile of the original or that the record was simply wrong.

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Fast forward to 2011: during a major review of library holdings on Milner Library's third floor, *Historia fiorentina* reappeared in a list of books that have been shelved there. Interest piqued by this unusual item, library staff conducted a thorough search for the book in a variety of likely and unlikely locations. This time, they succeeded. Milner's oldest book was found sitting in perfect call number order in the Department of Special Collections.

There is a certain justice in the rediscovery of Poggio Bracciolini's *Historia fiorentina*. After all, he was the scholar who rediscovered much of the classical writings that have shaped Western Civilization. We were simply returning the favor.

To see the book, stop by Special Collections on the sixth floor of the library during regular library hours.

New types of material and interaction in the library

By David Stern

The library of the 21st century includes far more than books, and some of these new materials create entirely new ways to interact with information. Below are a few new additions and their associated behaviors. We can now touch, annotate, and interact with these new tools.

ELECTRONIC BOOKS

Milner Library has just obtained access to more than 70,000 new electronic books (e-books) within the Academic Complete package. This aggregator combines books from many of the most important publishers. Readers can search deeply into the full text to find specific words and concepts. The precision and recall goes far beyond the title/author/subject searching that most library catalogs offer. Once a book is identified, it is possible to jump straight to the matching terms, browse by table of contents, and highlight sections with personal annotations. In addition to reading the materials online from any computer with a Web browser, portions of the books can be downloaded and/or printed. In this package, there are an unlimited number of simultaneous readers, so you will never need to wait for the book to be returned by another reader. This large set of full text books complements the significant set of online reference books we already provide.

GEOSPATIAL DATA

Another new addition to Milner is the introduction of mapping software. Five workstations in the computer lab now include the ArcView suite of Geospatial Information Software (GSI). GIS allows researchers to manipulate tables of raw data and project the results onto maps. Imagine layering demographic data (education, age, sex) and purchasing behaviors onto maps. Or you could show changes in vegetation across the Sahara desert over time. Many researchers now go out into the field with GIS devices and bring back observations for analysis and mapping. For those with less interest in the complex ArcView software, we have also obtained access to the Simply Map service, which creates maps derived from sets of commercial and demographic information. This makes creating and importing maps into papers and reports very easy.

TOUCH SCREEN ACCESS

Another new method of interacting with our materials is through touch screen workstations. These new screens allow users to use natural and intuitive gestures to manipulate icons. The same way new iPhones provide point-and-tap or stretch options, Milner's new screens will allow scholars to interact with data without typing or using a mouse. We are introducing these screens at various service desks in smaller sizes, and we will eventually provide larger screens with even greater capabilities for group work and audience presentations.

Inside Milner

NEW EMPLOYEES

Prema Desai joined the cataloging and metadata unit of the content management and scholarly resources department as cataloger/trainer. Desai earned her master of library and information science and two bachelor's degrees from Indira Gandhi National Open University. She previously worked as an assistant supervisory cataloging librarian at the Library of Congress Overseas Office.

Mindy LaHood joined the Teaching with primary sources grant office as professional development outreach coordinator. LaHood earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Oliver Nazarene University. She previously worked in the Peoria and Decatur public school districts.

Brian Peterson joined the Web services and end-user systems department as UNIX administrator. Peterson previously worked as a network operations server specialist at Pavlov Media.

Anne Shelley joined the liaison and reference services department as multimedia services and music librarian. Shelley earned her master of library and information science from the University of Iowa and her bachelor's degree in music education from Iowa State University. She previously worked as an assistant librarian at the University of Minnesota.

RETIREMENTS

Kay Weir retired May 31 after 22 years as a business subject librarian.

Peggy Myers retired on December 31 after 32 years of service, most recently as a senior library specialist in the cataloging and metadata unit of the content management and scholarly resources department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CHAD KAHL

Chad Kahl, associate professor and subject specialist librarian for criminal justice, law, military science, and politics and government, is the recipient of Milner Library's 2012 Outstanding Service Award. During his eight years at Milner Library, Kahl has demonstrated an exemplary



level of conscientious service to the library, the University, and to the profession.

Kahl has risen in leadership responsibility both in the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section and Law and Political Science Section (LPSS). He is serving as chair of LPSS. He previously served as chair of the section's Program Planning Committee and Publications committee, webmaster, and member of the Publications Committee, Library Instruction Committee, and Membership Committee. In the instruction section, Kahl has served as secretary, archivist, and member of the Education Committee. He participated as a member of two instruction section task forces charged with leveraging the future of library instruction. Due to the quality of his earlier service, Kahl was appointed to the Advisory Council for the American Library Association Center for Public Life.

In the library, Kahl chaired the Library Faculty Council and has served on the Faculty Research and Development Committee, the Department Faculty Status Committee, and multiple subcommittees of the Dean's Technology Advisory Committee. Kahl has served on multiple search committees both in the library and on campus. As a member of the Educating Illinois Task Force he contributed to the revision of the University's guiding document. As a member of the Political Engagement Project's Coordinating Council and chair for the last two years, Kahl has been a key participant in the group that was awarded the first Political Engagement Program of Excellence Award, sponsored by the *New York Times* and the National American Democracy Project. Related to this, he cochaired an excellent campus program and exhibit in Milner Library called "Thoughts on Democracy: Rinterpreting Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms." Kahl's record of service and leadership is outstanding at all levels.



Kahl wins Milner Library's Outstanding Service Award

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THE EXCITING FUTURE

The "new" library encourages patrons to interact with information in new and powerful ways. Visualizations, simulations, interactive and manipulative materials, and social sharing of content and comments are now available. Additional new behaviors will be supported as we move from a controllable print world to a world of dynamic data. The library will respond by continuing to enable new possibilities and by providing new tools and techniques.

Scholarly activity

Dallas Long authored "Latino Students' Perceptions of the Academic Library" *The Journal of Academic Librarianship* (37) 6, 504-11.

Sohair Wastawy was interviewed by *American Libraries* for the article "Egypt's Cultural Center Seeks its Path Amid Turmoil" November 11, 2011.

Wastawy presented Preserving Cultural Identity for the Al-Gannas Association in Al-Tasher Hall in The Cultural Village (Katara) in Qatar on November 14, 2011.

Wastawy was also selected by the American Library Association to be a consultant on an Open Society Foundations grant of \$750,000 for a National/International media literacy project.

Toni Tucker received funding from the Sage Trust Fund to support author Benjamin Mee's visit to Illinois State University. Tucker was appointed as chair of the American Library's Association Public Relations Forum (2012-2013).

Kathleen Lonbom was elected as vice chair/chair elect for the Art Libraries Society of North America Midstates Chapter (2012-2013).

Tidbits

Pride & Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience Exhibit



Opening at Milner Library on March 28, 2012, the exhibit examines the challenges faced by African-American baseball players as they sought equal opportunities in their sport beginning in the post-Civil War era.

Baseball has long reflected the complicated and painful history of race in the United States. *Pride and Passion: The African American Baseball Experience* tells the story of black baseball players in the U.S. over the past 150

years. Although many blacks played baseball with whites in the nineteenth century as amateurs and also played on minor league teams through the 1880s, black players were not allowed to compete with whites when major league baseball was created in the mid-1890s. To counter this discrimination, they organized teams made up entirely of black players and formed leagues that were known collectively as the Negro Leagues. The Negro Leagues had their highest level of success in the 1940s, and they continued into the 1960s, with the last team disbanding in 1961. When Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945 integration in baseball began a slow and uneven path to the integrated status of modern day teams, and all-black teams began to disappear.

Pride and Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience, a traveling exhibition for libraries, was organized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, Cooperstown, New York, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office, Chicago. The traveling

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exhibition has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Great Ideas Brought to Life.

The traveling exhibition is based on an exhibition of the same name on permanent display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Ross Griffiths receives grant

Ross Griffiths, Head, Heritage and Legacy Collections Milner Library, received a grant from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) Book Digitization Initiative to digitize historical materials from the University Archives.

MATERIALS TO BE DIGITIZED:

- Course catalogs for Illinois State Normal University/Illinois State University (ISNU/ISU) published from 1859 to 2011 that detail undergraduate, graduate, and summer courses, as well as curriculum and campus life with selected issues detailing names of faculty, students, and graduates and containing images and descriptions of campus activities.
- The Index, Freshman/New Student Record, Graduate Record annual yearbooks for ISNU/ISU 1892–1994, which includes names and photographs of attendees and graduates, faculty, and the campus as well as selected descriptions of departments, campus life, and student activities.
- The proceedings of the Teachers College Board 1950–1965, Board of Governors

(BOG) 1965–1967 (during the years in which the BOG administered ISU) and the Board of Regents 1968–1995, which record the administrative activities of ISU and the other state institutions of higher learning as governed by these boards at various times that detail policy, procedure, governance, management and fiscal issues as well as details about curriculum, faculty and staff, student body and physical plants. (Note: These board reports will supplement the collection of Board of Education reports from 1857–1917 already available online from Milner Library and those from 1917–1949 scheduled to be digitized through this program by another CARLI institution.)

Eunice Speer Scholarship Spring 2012 Award recipient

Sarah Caffarello has been selected to receive the Speer Scholarship for the spring semester 2012. Caffarello is a fourth grade teacher at Prairie Point Elementary School in Oswego. She earned her bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and a master's degree from University of Nevada. Caffarello decided to pursue her librarian endorsement after doing a book study with a few colleagues at Prairie Point. The book was *Igniting a Passion for Reading* by Steven Layne.



Brenda Thompson '80,
librarian, honored alum.

Inside Milner

(continued)

ANITA BEAMAN

Anita Beaman, director of the postbaccalaureate certificate program in school librarianship, has been chosen as the 2011 Illinois School Library Media Association (ISLMA) Polestar Award recipient. She received her award during the annual ISLMA conference on October 28.

The Polestar Award honors ISLMA members who have made outstanding contributions to school library media programs in Illinois. ISLMA members nominate school librarians, and the Awards Committee looks for nominees who exhibit cooperation, leadership, contribution to ISLMA, legislation, development of library media curricula, publication, innovative program development, research, interest in young people, and resourcefulness. One recipient is chosen each year.

Beaman's nominators cite her dedication to her students, her innovative programs, her willingness to collaborate with others, and her enthusiasm for her profession.

KRENA HOYT

Krena Hoyt was selected from a pool of nominations as the 2011 winner for her impressive contributions to Milner Library and the Illinois State University IT community. In letters of support, Hoyt was valued as a wonderful resource in helping to find answers to IT and non-IT-related questions. In her role the reviewers were impressed with her consistent, unwavering willingness and ability to go the extra mile to find and implement the best IT solution, and for her willingness to ask relevant questions and seek opinions of others when making decisions about new or alternative technology.

The Williams Outstanding Technology Service Award was established in 2001 by David B. and Kay O. Williams to recognize an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the University in the area of technology and service. The purpose of the Williams Outstanding Technology Service Award is to provide a monetary award and significant recognition to a staff person who has made extraordinary contributions to the University in the area of technology support.

Hoyt will be presented the award at the February 16 Founder's Day Celebration.



Have you been recently hired or promoted? Help us maintain our records and continue building networking opportunities for our past and current students with Redbird Connections. Visit IllinoisStateAlumni.org today!

You can also send your updated information or accomplishments to Toni Tucker (ttucker@IllinoisState.edu) or fill out this form and return it to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900.

Name (maiden name if applicable)

Class year

Phone

Email

Mailing address

Present occupation/Employer

News/Comments

EVERY GIFT MATTERS

Every gift matters to our students at Illinois State University. And your support of Milner Library is no exception. Annual unrestricted gifts to Milner allow us to purchase items that the annual budget cannot support. Last fiscal year unrestricted gifts to Milner provided on campus speakers, technology and facility upgrades, materials for the Lincoln Collection, scholarships for the Library Science Program, and equipment for the Digital Imaging Center. Private support is critical to keeping Milner on the leading edge of electronic information accessible to our students. To make a gift, please complete the gift form and return it to: **Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.**

YES, MY GIFT MATTERS.

GIFT DESIGNATION

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to be paid: ☐ annually ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually

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Office use only: AG00000000 2012008890 43

Calendar of spring events

Join us for events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit IllinoisState.edu/Library or contact Toni Tucker at ttucker@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-3481.

EVENTS

February 2, 7 p.m.

Tony Preston-Schreck
Picture This
Main floor, Milner Library

March 1, 7 p.m.

Nancy Perzo and
Karen Patton
Titanic the ship of Dreams
Main floor, Milner Library

March 7, 7 p.m.

Edward (Ted) Kohn
Hot Time in the Old Town:
New York's Catastrophic
Heat Wave of 1896
Main floor, Milner Library

March 26, 7 p.m.

Philip Nel
2012 Lois Lenski Children's
Literature Lecture
Shroeder Hall 138

April 2, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Edible Book Festival
Main floor, Milner Library

April 5, 7 p.m.

Bill Kemp
Baseball in McLean County
1957–1941
Main floor, Milner Library

April 18, 7 p.m.

Jeremy Krock
The Negro Leagues Baseball
Grave Marker Project
Main floor, Milner Library

April 23, 3 p.m.

Q&A Milner Library
7 p.m. Presentation
Benjamin Mee
We Bought a Zoo
Brown Ballroom,
Bone Student Center

April 26, 7 p.m.

Adrian Burgos
From Cuban Giants to Cuban
Stars: The International
World of Black Baseball
Main floor, Milner Library

May 3, 7 p.m.

Ernie L. Westfield
Negro League Baseball:
Yesterday and Today
Main floor, Milner Library

EXHIBITS

November–March 31

The Art of Whimsy,
Costume Design by
Svetlana Golovko
Sixth floor,
Milner Library

January 17–March 31

Picture This
Main floor, Milner
Library

March 28–May 11

Pride & Passion: The
African-American
Baseball Experience
Main floor,
Milner Library

Alumni update

Are you wondering where a faculty member or classmate is? Tell us who you are wondering about and we will try to see where they are and what they are up to.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or ttucker@IllinoisState.edu.

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